

Application No. 10/603,875
Amendment Dated December 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 10, 2004

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A lid to selectively plug or unplug a discharge mouth of a developer container mounted to an image forming apparatus for replenishing a developer, comprising:
 - a body having a bottom portion and a sidewall portion defining an opening, wherein the bottom portion has an inner surface and an outer surface, and the sidewall portion has an inner surface and an outer surface;
 - a ring;
 - a lug having a first end and a second end defining a body portion; and
 - a plurality of arms connecting the lug and the ring, wherein the ring is sized to fit into a position at the sidewall portion such that when the ring is placed into the position, the second end of the lug and the inner surface of the bottom portion define a gap therebetween so that there is no contact between the second end of the lug and the bottom portion and the body portion of the lug facing away from the developer container when the lid plugs the discharge mouth.
2. (Original): The lid of claim 1, wherein the body of the lid further comprises an engaging portion formed around the opening and extending outwardly from the sidewall portion and sized to engage the discharge mouth of a developer container when the lid plugs the discharge mouth.

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3. (Original): The lid of claim 1, wherein the sidewall portion of the body comprises a cylindrical portion and a conical portion, wherein the conical portion adjoins the cylindrical portion and the bottom portion.
4. (Original): The lid of claim 3, wherein the body has a plurality of annular ribs formed on the inner surface of the cylindrical portion.
5. (Original): The lid of claim 1, wherein the lug is substantially extending along a central axis of the ring.
6. (Original): The lid of claim 1, wherein the body portion of the lug has a larger diameter portion forming a conical recess therein proximate to the first end of the lug and a smaller diameter portion adjoining the larger diameter portion and the plurality of arms.
7. (Original): The lid of claim 1, wherein the ring has a first end with a larger diameter, a second end with a smaller diameter and an annular portion therebetween the first end and the second end.
8. (Original): The lid of claim 1, wherein the plurality of arms are equiangularly from apart each other.
9. (Currently amended): A lid to selectively plug or unplug a discharge mouth of a developer container mounted to an image forming apparatus for replenishing a developer, comprising:
 - a body having a bottom portion and a sidewall portion defining an opening, wherein the bottom portion has an inner surface and an outer surface, and the sidewall portion has an inner surface and an outer surface;

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a lug having a first end and a second end defining a body portion with a center of axis; and

a plurality of arms projecting away from a center axis of the lug from the second end of the lug and engaging the sidewall portion such that the second end of the lug and the first inner surface of the bottom portion define a gap therebetween so that there is no contact between the second end of the lug and the bottom portion and the body portion of the lug facing away from the developer container when the lid plugs the discharge mouth.

10. (Original): The lid of claim 9, wherein the body of the lid further comprises an engaging portion formed around the opening and extending outwardly from the sidewall portion and sized to engage the discharge mouth of a developer container when the lid plugs the discharge mouth.
11. (Original): The lid of claim 9, wherein the sidewall portion of the body comprises a cylindrical portion and a conical portion, wherein the conical portion adjoins the cylindrical portion and the bottom portion.
12. The lid of claim 11, wherein the body has a plurality of annular ribs formed on the inner surface of the cylindrical portion.
13. (Original): The lid of claim 9, wherein the body portion of the lug comprises a first plate portion with a diameter, a second plate portion with a diameter, and a cylindrical portion with a diameter therebetween and the diameter of cylindrical portion is smaller than both of the diameters of the first plate portion and the second plate portion.
14. (Original): The lid of claim 13, wherein the diameters of the first plate portion and the second plate portion are substantially equal.

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15. (Original): The lid of claim 9, wherein the plurality of arm are extending away from the second plate and equiangularly apart from each other.
16. (Original): The lid of claim 9, wherein the body further comprises a plurality of projections correspondingly located at the inner surface of the sidewall portion so as to engage with the plurality of arms.
17. (Original): The lid of claim 9, wherein each of the arms defines a hole at an end away from the second plate, and each of the projections has a corresponding pin portion to be received in a hole of a corresponding arm so as to engage with the corresponding arm.
18. (Currently amended): A lid to selectively plug or unplug a discharge mouth of a developer container mounted to an image forming apparatus for replenishing a developer, comprising:
 - a body having a bottom portion and a sidewall portion defining an opening, wherein the bottom portion has an inner surface and an outer surface, and the sidewall portion has an inner surface and an outer surface; and
 - a lug having a first end and a second end defining a body portion, wherein the lug is engaged with the body at a position at the sidewall portion such that the second end of the lug and the ~~first~~ inner surface of the bottom portion define a gap therebetween so that there is no contact between the second end of the lug and the bottom portion and the body portion of the lug facing away from the developer container when the lid plugs the discharge mouth.
19. (Original): The lid of claim 18, wherein the lid further comprises a plurality of arms projecting away from a center axis of the lug and engaging with the sidewall portion of the body.

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20. (Original): The lid of claim 18, wherein the body portion of the lug comprises a first plate portion and a second plate portion and a cylindrical portion defined therebetween, and a plurality of arms extending away from the second plate portion so as to engage with the sidewall portion of the body.